
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: This practice may be applied as needed to improve or maintain livestock nutrition and health, to provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production, to reduce soil erosion, improve soil and water quality, and to produce feedstock for bio-fuel or energy production. Within the Action Area, this practice is typically used to convert croplands to perennial grass and legume mixtures to increase forage hay production and grazing for livestock. More recently, some plantings have been established for the purpose of producing and harvesting biomass for fuels and energy.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist producers with a strategy for forage and biomass planting consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification: Forage and Biomass Planting Code 512.
- Prepare a forage and biomass planting strategy that will support other practices in creating the desired habitat conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken and that meets the Conservation Measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative Biological Opinion providing ESA predictability.
 - ☐ Timing of treatment^a (check one);
 - ☐ no restriction
 - ☐ prohibited March 1st – July 15th
 - * if implementation is required during the nesting season select no restrictions*
 - ☐ Use site specific reclamation strategies developed using ecological site descriptions with timing of planting and post-establishment management as per local site conditions
- Provide a copy of the appropriate Job Sheet, Conservation Plan and plan map for guidance on implementation.
- Identify and plan other supporting conservation practices (Cover Crop, Herbaceous Weed Control, etc.) as needed and in accordance with the Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative Biological Opinion.
- Certify practice meets standards and implementation specifications.^b

II. Participant will:

- Implement Forage and Biomass Plantings within the time constraints identified above and specified in the Conservation Plan provided by NRCS.
- If activities are conducted within the breeding and nesting period (March 1 – July 15) they will be completed with as little disturbance as possible to adjacent and surround LPC habitat.
- Ensure that machinery associated with the practice is clean and free of vegetative debris prior to use to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.

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- Operate machinery in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape by starting in the middle of the field and working outward or by attaching a flushing bar to equipment.
- Implement Forage and Biomass Planting in accordance with Job Sheet and specifications provided by NRCS.
- Notify NRCS upon completion of practice.
- Control livestock access as needed to allow for initial establishment of new vegetative plantings and control weeds through flash grazing as approved by the local District Conservationist.

***a** should a lek be discovered within ½ mile of project area, confer with NRCS personnel prior to implementation.*

***b** any payment will only be processed upon practice certification by NRCS personnel.*

I understand the requirements of the practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments and ESA predictabilities provided by the LPCI Biological Opinion.

Participant Signature

Date